

STAR OF COURAGE

Major Robert John JEPPESEN, RFD (Deceased)
Late of 73 Orchid Street
ENOGGERA QLD 4051

(Next-of-Kin: Mrs Fay Jeppesen
73 Orchid Street
ENOGGERA QLD 4051)

On 4 September 1990 at about midnight a fire broke out in the upstairs lounge of the Commercial Hotel, on the corner of Duck and Eagle Streets, Longreach. The fire spread quickly and Major Jeppesen, on discovering it, walked along the hallway calling out "fire, fire" in a calm and controlled voice. After alerting guests in the Duck Street wing he returned still calling out. The fire was becoming intense on the top floor as he went through the Eagle Street wing to alert the occupants there. The heat and flames intensified still further but, although by now affected by the smoke, Major Jeppesen came back along the corridor still calling out. With his clothing and hair fully alight he was attempting to leave the hotel via the internal stairway when the roof collapsed upon him.

By his actions in giving his own life to save fourteen people Major Jeppesen displayed conspicuous courage.

STAR OF COURAGE

Constable First Class Sean Daniel MURPHY
New South Wales Police Service

On 12 September 1989 at about 11.50 p.m. a fire broke out on the first floor of a hotel in Queanbeyan. Constable First Class Murphy went to raise the alarm and accompanied the manager upstairs where they saw smoke coming from Room One. When he kicked the door in the room appeared unoccupied. They shut the door to prevent the flames from spreading and as they went to alert other guests the area began to fill with thick black smoke. Told that someone was in Room One Constable Murphy returned and found a man on the floor behind the door. As flames came round the door Constable Murphy, with assistance, attempted to pull the man out but he became wedged in the doorway. Continuing on his own in the rescue attempt he pulled him onto the landing and went to get his breath. He returned to the unconscious man, whose clothes by now were alight and moved him to the top of the stairs where he became caught in the bannister railings. As Constable Murphy crouched down under the smoke to take a further breath the stairwell went up in flames and the man was consumed. He was then joined by another policeman in a final unsuccessful attempt to move the body but they were driven back by the heat and smoke to the bottom of the stairwell.

By his actions Constable First Class Murphy displayed conspicuous courage.

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr John Johnston Laird PARKER
27 Fields Road
MACQUARIE FIELDS NSW 2564

On 22 August 1988 a man, armed with a high-powered rifle, entered a house at Camden. Awoken by a loud crash, Mr Parker, who was in the house, opened the bedroom door and was leaning into the hallway when the offender fired a shot at a woman in the bathroom. He then turned and pointed the rifle at Mr Parker, who withdrew to the bedroom. As he closed the door another shot was fired through the bedroom wall narrowly missing him. Two further shots were fired and in response to the woman's call for help Mr Parker crept up the hallway where he saw the offender standing over the woman's body. As he was reloading the rifle Mr Parker grabbed the offender from behind, snatching the rifle, and a violent struggle ensued. Mr Parker forced the rifle away from him and struck him with the butt. He took him into the lounge room and held him at gunpoint, but the offender managed to escape. When police and ambulance officers arrived a short time later it was evident that the woman had died from gunshot wounds.

By his actions Mr Parker displayed conspicuous courage.

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Timothy Henry PROCTER
Late of 32 Lindsay Street
LEINSTER WA 6437

(Deceased)

(Next-of-Kin: Mr J.W. Procter
Hartford Mill
Brompton Regis
SOMERSET
ENGLAND)

During the night of 12 June and the day of 13 June 1989, heavy rains in the vicinity of Leinster caused creeks in the area to flood. The volume of water was such that the 450 South pit was unable to retain the water and its southern bank gave way. The water filled a disused extension mine located alongside the 450 South, continued into the main open-cut mine and down a decline. This decline runs off the western face of the mine floor where the underground crew of five men were working. On the afternoon of 13 June, Mr Procter, the Mine Manager, was advised of the overflow. Mr Procter was driven over to inspect the 450 South. Having quickly assessed the situation he returned to his office to cancel the afternoon shift. Within minutes he left in his four-wheel-drive vehicle for the Emu open-cut mine. Half way down the ramp he met the underground supervisor and together they observed a great deal of water flowing down the wall into the open-cut. Having informed him to leave at once, Mr Procter then drove across the open-cut mine, a distance of some 150 metres and informed other workers to get out quickly. He drove to the portal, stopping momentarily to look back in the direction from which the water was coming. On entering the decline, water had already started to flow in; the water was approximately 30 centimetres deep when Mr Procter drove down the decline to warn the men of the impending danger. Simultaneously the torrent of water coming over the edge of the open cut was such that in no time the decline and the open cut flooded. Neither Mr Procter nor the five men working in the decline, whose lives he had attempted to save, managed to escape.

By his actions Mr Procter displayed conspicuous courage.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Craig William ABLETT
14 Naylor Place
LESMURDIE WA 6076

On 11 June 1989 Mr Ablett was driving in a westerly direction along Welshpool Road, Lesmurdie, towards Perth when he saw smoke. Nearing the intersection at Gladys Road he saw that there had been an accident and that an upturned station wagon was on fire. Mr Ablett stopped and went to assist. Walking round the side of the station wagon he saw a young girl crawling around in the flames with her hair and clothing on fire. Mr Ablett ran to the rear and tried unsuccessfully to crawl inside. He then tried to reach in to grab the girl and when he could not, he repeatedly called to her to crawl towards him until he was able to take hold of her clothing. Having pulled her about two-thirds of the way out, another person came to assist him and together they freed her and carried her away. A minute later there was an explosion and the station wagon was engulfed in flames. In rescuing the girl Mr Ablett received burns to the right side of his face and both hands. The girl did not survive her injuries.

By his actions Mr Ablett displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Leonard Edward ALABACUS
148 Bulban Road
WERRIBEE VIC 3030

On 12 March 1990, at the conclusion of a race at the Borderline Speedway, Mount Gambier, a hotrod car hit the fence and caught on fire. Mr Alabacus, a competitor, ran to the car and through the flames saw the driver's arms hanging out the window. Attempting to reach through the side window to unbuckle the driver's seat belt he was forced back by the heat which melted his glasses. When the fire crew was using extinguishers on the flames he walked back to his own car to remove his helmet. He turned to see that the fire was still raging and the extinguishers were empty. Mr Alabacus ran back to the car and again tried unsuccessfully to reach the driver's seat belt through the side window. Wearing gloves he jumped on to the bonnet, put his hands into the flames and released the seat-belt buckle. The driver stood up and Mr Alabacus pulled him out. He pushed him off the top of the car on to the ground where ambulance officers attended to him.

By his actions Mr Alabacus displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Alan Leonard BARBER
1384 Creek Road
CARINA QLD 4152

On 12 November Mr Barber was in the back yard of his home at Carina when he saw a man hurriedly climbing stairs to a verandah on which his father was standing. The man was carrying a cardboard box with his right hand inside it. Reaching the top of the stairs he threw the box over the railing and Mr Barber then saw that he was holding a large-bladed kitchen knife. A short struggle ensued and Mr Barber ran up the stairs. Reaching the top he saw his father fall to the ground with blood seeping down his shirt. Mr Barber pinned the offender's arms from behind and they struggled for two or three minutes. They fell down and Mr Barber took hold of the knife and, half-standing up, threw it over the verandah. The offender tried to get up but he jumped on him again and held him until the police arrived about 10 minutes later. During this time he saw that his father was bleeding profusely from a chest wound which caused his death.

By his actions Mr Barber displayed considerable bravery.

Mr William James BARROWS
Nick Lyons Road
MT GAMBIER SA 5290

During a race for hotrod cars at the Borderline Speedway, Mt Gambier, on 11 March 1990, a car burst into flames and stopped. The driver was unable to get out. Mr Barrows, an official, ran from the infield to the scene where a member of the fire crew was playing a fire extinguisher on both car and driver. Mr Barrows tried several times to remove him but the flames were too fierce and he was driven back by the heat. When the flames were partly under control he picked up a fire blanket and, climbing on to the roll cage, attempted to lower the fire blanket on to the driver. With burns to his hand from grasping the roll cage, his hair singed and his trousers and socks alight, he had to give up the attempt. When the driver was released Mr Barrows reached up and assisted in lowering him from the roll cage and together they fell clear of the flames. Later Mr Barrows was treated at hospital for burns to his left hand and leg.

By his actions Mr Barrows displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Jonathan Joseph BREENE
63 Riverview Terrace
HAMILTON QLD 4465

On 16 October 1989 at Mitchell a man collapsed from carbon monoxide poisoning at the foot of a 24-metre deep well. Mr Breene's employer received a call for help and together they drove 10 kilometres to the scene. Although unaware of the depth and the darkness, as he had not descended a well before, Mr Breene climbed on to a platform and asked to be lowered into the well. Once at the bottom he became aware that he could not hold the dead weight of the unconscious man. He was thrown a rope and, following instructions, tied it around the man's chest and under his arms. After about five minutes, when the rope was firmly tied to the cable, they were both winched to the top. Mr Breene helped lift the man on to a truck and went in it to meet the ambulance. Later at the hospital he was treated for carbon monoxide poisoning.

By his actions Mr Breene displayed considerable bravery.

Mr James Muir BULLIVANT
36 Kinmond Avenue
WAVELL HEIGHTS QLD 4012

On 15 April 1988 Mr Bullivant was a customer at the Wavell Heights North Post Office at Nundah when two armed offenders, wearing balaclavas, burst into the premises. One offender jumped the counter and grabbed a handful of money. A violent struggle with the postmaster ensued and the second offender, who was armed with a sawn-off double barrel shotgun, fired missing the postmaster's head by 30 centimetres. Mr Bullivant immediately ran and tackled the armed offender, whom he grabbed and pushed onto the floor at the corner of the counter and the wall. During the struggle the double-barrelled shotgun fell to the floor and Mr Bullivant was able to pin the offender to the ground. Both offenders were subdued before the arrival of the police, who, on unmasking them, found them to be women.

By his actions Mr Bullivant displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Ms Catherine Anne CHEE
PO Box 1562
SOUTHPORT QLD 4215

On 15 March 1989 Ms Chee accompanied police officers to a unit at Loders Creek. On arrival a man attempted to leave through a side window and was brought back to the unit. He then became abusive and a struggle ensued with a police officer. Ms Chee stepped forward, took hold of one of the offender's arms and assisted the police officer. When the offender was restrained she went to call for assistance. On her return the offender began a further struggle with the police officer and threatened to stab him. With his left hand the offender grabbed a knife with a blade 18 centimetres long and used it in a threatening manner. Ms Chee warned the police officer and stepped forward grabbing the offender's arm thus preventing the police officer from being stabbed. Together they grabbed the offender's arm and directed him to drop the knife. A further violent struggle ensued and after five minutes he did so. At about this time other police arrived and the offender was secured.

By her actions Ms Chee displayed considerable bravery.

Ms Pamela Jane DAVIDSON
30 Safety Beach Drive
SAFETY BEACH NSW 2456

On 7 April 1988 at about 9.00 p.m. a light aircraft crashed in bushland near Boambee Beach. Ms Davidson, a passenger, saw another passenger kick the window, climb out and run about 15 metres away. She climbed out also and said that when she was about a metre from the aircraft she called to the passengers remaining inside to ask them if they needed help. One man responded and Ms Davidson returned to the window and directed him from the aircraft. Advising the dazed man to run away she then heard a hissing sound followed by an explosion. Flames shot along the ground for several metres and Ms Davidson was thrown forward. She put her hands to her face, ran to escape the flames and then rolled on the ground to extinguish the fire. When police arrived Ms Davidson was taken to hospital and later received treatment for burns to sixty-five percent of her body.

By her actions Ms Davidson displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Laurence Andrew DICKSON
10 Kiola Street
SMITHFIELD NSW 2164

On 23 September 1989 Mr Dickson was visiting friends at Wyoming when he was told that a fire had broken out in the house next door. He jumped the fence and turned a hose on the dining room windows without effect. Running to the front of the house he was told that children remained inside. He knelt down and saw through the kitchen door that the floor was clear for forty-five centimetres. Breathing deeply he crawled quickly inside where flames, coming from the dining and lounge areas were shooting across the kitchen and out of the windows. Still on his knees Mr Dickson kept below them but his visibility was diminished by the thick black smoke. Feeling his way across the floor he touched a solid object and placing it in front of him he quickly left the kitchen. Once outside he realised that he was holding a child and removed him to the lawn below playing water on him until the ambulance arrived.

By his actions Mr Dickson displayed considerable bravery.

Mrs Elizabeth Anne DYER
9 Devon Drive
MARGARET RIVER WA 6285

On 15 December 1989 Mrs Dyer, a volunteer St John Ambulance driver at Margaret River, attended a traffic accident at the intersection of Caves and Wallcliffe Roads. Upon arrival, Mrs Dyer climbed into the rear of a station wagon and administered first aid to three young men, one of whom had sustained critical injuries. She held his head up until oxygen was applied and for half an hour operated a suction catheter to remove excess fluid and blood. A considerable amount of petrol was leaking into the interior of the wagon from a ruptured fuel tank and numerous short circuits were creating sparks in the electrical system. Although Mrs Dyer was advised of the danger on several occasions she continued to render first-aid until the three injured men had been removed to safety.

By her actions Mrs Dyer displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Robert James FRANKS
19 Wooli Street
YAMBA NSW 2464

On 19 September 1989 Mr Franks heard screams coming from a shop in Merthyr Road, New Farm. As he ran inside a man appeared from behind a partition with his right arm around a woman's neck. At the same time he pointed a large silver-bladed knife at her with his left hand. Mr Franks told the offender to release the woman and she fell to the floor. The offender then walked towards him and pointed the knife at him. Mr Franks stepped backwards on to the footpath and the offender, carrying a bag over his shoulder, continued to threaten him as he ran away. While chasing the offender Mr Franks was again threatened but he persisted and called to others to assist. When the offender escaped up a laneway he returned to the shop where he joined the driver of a car in a further search. Again observing the offender Mr Franks pursued him unsuccessfully on foot and then informed the police who detained him twenty minutes later.

By his actions Mr Franks displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Conrad Stewart Latimer GREENWOOD
MS 1049
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4352

On 11 June 1990 Mr Greenwood was walking towards a car on a property at Charlton when he heard a shot fired. A woman nearby called out that this shot had just missed her head. He ran towards her and when he was two metres away a second shot was fired and she fell to the ground. After warning others in his car to leave the area Mr Greenwood ran to a house and smashed a window to gain entry in an unsuccessful attempt to ring the emergency services. Taking shelter he saw that the woman was still breathing and ran to grab her by the shoulders to drag her towards the house. He heard another shot and although he believed himself to have been struck in the arm he continued to drag the woman four metres to cover in front of a garage. He heard another muffled shot near some sheds but remained with the woman until police and ambulance officers arrived. The woman died later in hospital and the offender was found to have killed himself with the final shot.

By his actions Mr Greenwood displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Adam Christopher HANKS
30 Orion Street
YASS NSW 2582

On 26 July 1989 Mr Hanks, aged 17, was at home at Yass and was told by children that a nearby house was on fire. He went outside and saw smoke coming from the house next door. Advised that someone remained in the house he ran to the back door where he found smoke coming from it. Mr Hanks entered by another door and called out but received no reply. Affected by the smoke he went outside and while there heard a voice from within the house. Although a neighbour attempted to stop him, he re-entered and by crouching down to avoid the smoke reached the kitchen where he found two walking sticks on the floor. Mr Hanks then saw a dazed man lying on his back on the floor. He picked him up under the armpits and carried him from the house to the lawn outside.

By his actions in saving a man's life Mr Hanks displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Christopher Robert HUNT
2/6 Bahlaka Street
MOOLOOLABA QLD 4557

On 23 February 1990 at about 1.00 a.m. Mr Hunt was returning from work when he was told that two men were in the water. Running along the water's edge he saw a man's head against the white water of the breakers, one hundred metres from the shore. Rescuing him Mr Hunt pulled him in to waist-deep water and continued to search for the other man. He searched unsuccessfully beyond the breakers and was returning to the beach when the second man came up beneath him. He was unconscious and Mr Hunt grabbed hold of him and moved him through the breakers rejoining the first man he had rescued. As he attempted to bring them both ashore through a strong undertow another man came to his assistance. He helped Mr Hunt drag them up the beach and the unconscious man was resuscitated before ambulance officers arrived.

By his actions Mr Hunt, in saving the two men, displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Ms Sandra JACKSON
2 Rosella Street
STIRLING WA 6021

On 15 May 1990 at about 1.15 a.m. Ms Jackson was awoken by noise outside a block of home units at Balcatta. She looked out the window and saw a group of men, armed with golf clubs and pieces of wood, milling around outside a friend's unit attempting to break in. After waking her companion Ms Jackson went out her back door and through her carport to assist and as she did so she heard her friend scream for help and call her name. She saw one man attempting to smash a window with a golf club, another near a car and four others standing ten feet away. This group moved towards her and raised their weapons as if to strike her. When Ms Jackson's companion arrived he placed himself between her and the men, who knocked him to the ground and continued to beat him. He managed to get to his feet and he and Miss Jackson escaped inside and called the police.

By her actions Ms Jackson displayed considerable bravery.

Lieutenant Colonel Graham Hamilton McLERIE, (RL)
19 Craigan Crescent
ASPLEY QLD 4034

On 15 April 1988 two armed offenders, wearing balaclavas, burst into the Wavell Heights North Post Office at Nundah. As one of the offenders climbed over the counter, Colonel McLerie, the Postmaster, went to the office behind to fill an empty mail bag. He returned with it and began to hit the offender, who called to the second offender to "pull the trigger". Looking up Mr McLerie saw that the second offender was armed with a sawn-off shotgun. A shot was fired and missed Colonel McLerie's head by about 30 centimetres. At the same time he saw the first offender grabbing money from the drawer and a struggle ensued in which Colonel McLerie subdued the first offender, the second offender having been subdued by a customer. On the arrival of the police the offenders were unmasked and found to be women.

By his actions Colonel McLerie displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Jason Paul MOLONEY
9 Redrose Avenue
BELMONT NSW 2280

On 3 January 1989 Mr Moloney went surfing at Half Tide Beach with Mr Thompson. They were sitting on their surfboards when dolphins in the water became restless. At that time a third member of the surfing group, who was paddling out, fell from his board. As the two paddled close to their companion they realised that he was being attacked by a shark, although at first because of the blood in the water, they could not see how badly injured the victim was. Together they placed him back on his board and paddled away, catching a wave to the shore one hundred metres distant. They dragged their companion up the beach and attempted to stop his bleeding. Mr Moloney remained with the victim while Mr Thompson went for police assistance.

By his actions Mr Moloney displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Allan MULROY
O'Brien Street
BONDI NSW 2026

On 30 December 1988 a young surfer was caught in a rip at Bondi Beach and swept 500 metres out to sea. With a ground swell of three to five metres, conditions made it impossible to use a boat or rescue boards. It was agreed that the boy could only be reached by swimming and Mr Mulroy, together with another beach inspector, entered the water wearing flippers. Battling the waves on the way out, for about thirty minutes, they became separated. When Mr Mulroy located and secured the boy they were one kilometre off shore. After twenty minutes he brought the boy through dumping surf to the shore where police and ambulance officers were waiting.

By his actions Mr Mulroy displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Philip James OSBORNE
2 Rosella Street
STIRLING WA 6021

On 15 May 1990 at about 1.15 a.m. Mr Osborne was awoken by a companion who had heard a disturbance near her friend's home unit at Balcatta. She left to assist and he followed shortly after. As Mr Osborne entered the driveway he found her about to be attacked by four men armed with golf clubs. Fearing for her safety he called to her to go inside while he confronted the men. They struck him and after receiving several blows he slipped to the ground. The attack continued and Mr Osborne received numerous blows across his back and shoulders. Struggling to his feet he called again to her to run and followed her slamming a gate behind them. Once inside the unit they closed the door and rang for police assistance.

By his actions Mr Osborne displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Michael Daniel REYNOLDS
C/- Mt Isa Base Hospital
Camooweal Street
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

On 30 January 1990 Mr Reynolds, on hearing a loud noise, opened the door of his office at the Mount Isa Hospital and saw a psychiatric patient holding a rifle in his arms. Threatening to shoot himself he placed the barrel of the rifle in his mouth and put his finger on the trigger. When Mr Reynolds tried to calm him he was told that he intended to shoot him as well. On seeing a police car at the door the offender again threatened Mr Reynolds and pointed the rifle at his head and shoulders. The offender then ran and pointed the rifle at a police officer standing outside and threatened to shoot him. He continued to swing the rifle around and to make threats to those who had come to assist and on two further occasions placed the rifle in his mouth. When the offender fired a shot through the open door Mr Reynolds realised that he would have to reload the rifle. He ran across the corridor, grabbed the offender and the rifle, and held on to him until police officers came to assist. After a short struggle the offender was disarmed and subdued.

By his actions Mr Reynolds displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Gregory Alan SWIFT
17 Toorak Road
INVERLOCH VIC 3996

On 22 November 1989 Mr Swift was surfing at Kilcunda Beach, when a shark, believed at first to be a dolphin, surfaced nearby. The fifteen-foot shark grabbed a surfboard, and board and rider disappeared into deep water. The surfer catapulted from the water screaming, as the shark rolled over with part of the board in its mouth and disappeared. Mr Swift paddled over and told the victim to take hold of his back. He grabbed the nose of the damaged surfboard and paddled with one arm until together they caught a wave. Bunched together Mr Swift brought the victim and the boards inshore. He put his arms around the victim and was moving him up the beach when two friends came to assist. The victim was taken to hospital where he received more than 60 stitches in his thigh.

By his actions Mr Swift displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Bradley David THOMPSON
10 Canara Close
BELMONT NORTH NSW 2280

On 3 January 1989 Mr Thompson went surfing at Half Tide Beach with Mr Moloney. They were sitting on their surfboards when dolphins in the water became restless. At that time a third member of the surfing group, who was paddling out, fell from his board. They paddled to him and on seeing blood in the water and a hole in his surfboard they realised that he had been attacked by a shark. Together they helped the victim onto his board and as they did Mr Thompson saw a shadow move round in the water behind the injured surfer. After paddling they caught a wave to the shore one hundred metres away and dragged him up the beach where they attempted to stop his bleeding before Mr Thompson went for police assistance.

By his actions Mr Thompson displayed considerable bravery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Corey ADAMS
40 Dwyer Avenue
LITTLE BAY NSW 2036

On 30 December 1988 a young surfer was caught in a rip at Bondi Beach and swept 500 metres out to sea. There was a swell of three to five metres and since the boy could only be reached by swimming, Mr Adams, together with another beach inspector, entered the water with a rescue tube and flippers. After battling the waves for about thirty minutes they became separated and Mr Adams was swept to the northern headland. Having lost sight of his companion and the boy he swam back and ran to meet them as they came through the final shorebreak.

For his actions Mr Adams is commended for brave conduct.

Sergeant Robert Cameron Philp ANDERSON
New South Wales Water Police

Sergeant Anderson was a crew member on the police launch "LEES" on 25 July 1989 when it was called to assist the stranded bulk liquid tanker "KOURIS" from Wanda Beach. Conditions existing at the time were winds of 50-55 knots and waves rising to over 7.5 metres. Because of worsening sea conditions when the launch reached the "KOURIS" a tow line could not be passed between them. Instead the line was thrown from a tug to the police launch which then manouvered around the tanker in breaking waves and within 40 metres of the beach. After being pulled on board the tanker the line parted and the operation had to be repeated twice more as the line broke a second time. The tug which had now lost power to both engines was washed up onto the beach. The police launch "LEES" unsuccessfully attempted to tow her off and then stood by in case evacuation became necessary. The whole operation which was then called off until the following day took over seven hours.

For his actions Sergeant Anderson is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Timothy Ian BONIFANT
17 Cinnabar Place
CARINE WA 6020

On 4 February 1989 Mr Bonifant was coming out of the surf at Triggs Beach when he saw two men caught in a trough approximately 45 metres out between a sandbar and the beach. As they were being dragged along parallel to the beach one man was trying to support the other. Mr Bonifant offered assistance which was declined at first but a short time later he took over the rescue. Mr Bonifant was pulled under the water repeatedly by the man who kept placing both arms around his neck while being towed to the beach. As Mr Bonifant dragged the man up the beach he felt pain in his back. He has since received extensive medical treatment for back injury.

For his actions Mr Bonifant is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Andrew John CAINES
64 Gawler Street
PORTLAND VIC 3305

On 3 January 1990 a crewman hit his head while attempting to jump from a fishing vessel to the dock at Macquarie Wharf, Hobart, and fell unconscious into the water. Mr Caines saw the crewman sinking rapidly and jumped in fully clothed. At a depth of approximately 5 metres Mr Caines grabbed the man by the hair, pulled him to the surface and supported him for about two minutes until he could attract the attention of others who assisted in dragging the still unconscious man onto the dock.

For his actions Mr Caines is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Fergus Andrew CAMERON
Tasmanian Police Force

On the night of 21 October 1989 Constable Cameron was assisting in placing an intoxicated driver in a police van at Derby when the man escaped, ran through the bush and fell into the fast flowing Ringarooma River. Constable Cameron, seeing that the man was in difficulties, entered the river but was swept downstream to a shallow section in the middle of the river. When he stood up in the waist deep water he saw that the driver had been washed onto the same area but was having trouble standing in the strong current. After trying unsuccessfully to swim to the bank with the driver floating on his back, Constable Cameron walked him upstream to a submerged tree branch which they clung to. After approximately 15 minutes a rope was thrown from the bank and the man was pulled to land first and then Constable Cameron followed. Both men were treated for hyperthermia.

For his actions Constable Cameron is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Todd Andrew CONNELLY
2 Esk Place
LYONS ACT 2606

Mr Connelly and a companion were driving north on the Federal Highway near Brooks Creek on 8 May 1989. He saw a fuel tanker travelling in the opposite direction and moving to the incorrect side of the road as it approached a bend. Mr Connelly veered to the left. However, the rear of the tanker bumped his car, causing him to lose control and collide with three guide posts. Meanwhile the tanker had rolled over spilling its load of aviation fuel. After stopping his car Mr Connelly and his passenger ran through the spilling fuel and were able to extract the unconscious driver from the prime mover and carry him a safe distance away.

For his actions Mr Connelly is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Miss Holly Dwan COOPER
93 Lakesfield Drive
ROWVILLE VIC 3178

On 27 August 1988 eight-year-old Holly Cooper was travelling with her 13-month-old half sister in a car driven by their mother at Blackburn North when she was forced to stop the car suddenly because of another car blocking their path. The driver of the other car, her mother's estranged husband, ran to the car which her mother was trying to reverse and fired a shotgun. Her mother was killed and Holly and her sister were injured by shot-gun pellets. The man then fired another shot at her mother before shooting himself. Holly then removed her mother's body from her lap, released her sister from her child restraint and ran home with her.

For her actions Holly Cooper is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Mark William COOPER
21 Tate Street
WEST LEEDERVILLE WA 6007

On 15 May 1990 at about 1.20 a.m. Mr Cooper went outside to investigate a disturbance at Balcatta. He ran, with a friend, towards the sound of breaking glass and a woman screaming. When they were twenty metres from a block of home units nearby, they saw a group of six youths, carrying weapons, running away. After pursuing them for 150 metres Mr Cooper caught up with his friend who was on the ground and being beaten by the group. His arrival gave his friend the opportunity to get to his feet and, being unarmed, they began to retreat. Two of the youths started to follow them but when a police car arrived they ran away.

For his actions Mr Cooper is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Mark DEWHURST
1/16 Waratah Street
CRONULLA NSW 2230

Mr Dewhurst, a lifeguard, was awoken on the morning of 25 July 1989 and requested to standby at Wanda Beach where the bulk liquid tanker "KOURIS" had run aground. The tanker was in danger of capsizing in the heavy swell and 50-55 knot winds. Two other lifeguards launched an inflatable rubber boat and Mr Dewhurst on a surf rescue board joined them after making his way through the surf. He stood by in huge seas while three attempts were made to ferry a tow line from the tug to the "KOURIS" and then returned to shore.

For his actions Mr Dewhurst is commended for brave conduct.

Senior Constable Bryce Robert FARLOW
New South Wales Police Service

On the night of 26 May 1989 at Peak Hill, Senior Constable Farlow was in a stationary police vehicle waiting at a railway crossing. After witnessing a motor cycle collide with a stationary train on the opposite side of the crossing he ran to assist. While attempting to free the pillion passenger from under the cycle he noticed the train beginning to move off. Constable Farlow dived under the train pulling the rider from the wheels and grabbed the dazed pillion passenger who was now free and in danger of wandering into the train. As their exit was blocked by the cycle he forced both men to lie down in close proximity to the tracks as 22 carriages passed.

For his actions Senior Constable Farlow is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Sandra GAY
54 Tiddy Avenue
MAITLAND SA 5573

On 16 August 1990 Mrs Gay saw smoke coming from a parked mini-bus at Maitland. She observed that two small children were inside. Running to the mini-bus she opened the partly closed sliding door, reached in, and removed both children. Seconds later the interior erupted in flames consuming the entire vehicle.

For her actions Mrs Gay is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Trevor Raymond GEBERT
119 Mary Street
EAST DEVONPORT TAS 7310

On 1 July 1990 Mr Gebert was in the private residence of a Supermarket in East Devonport when the female proprietor entered and said she was being robbed. He ran to the shop and saw a man armed with a knife standing near the till facing him. Mr Gebert grabbed the armed offender about the body and then around the neck as he tried to escape. As they struggled around the counter to the front of the shop Mr Gebert disarmed the man, forced him to the floor and detained him until the arrival of the police.

For his actions Mr Gebert is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Dr Lynn William HAWKEN
15 Josephine Terrace
NERANG QLD 4211

On 3 October 1989 Dr Hawken was advised at his surgery in Southport that a female social worker visiting a psychiatric patient had been shot. Dr Hawken ran across the road to where the woman was lying in a driveway bleeding profusely from a chest wound. While attending to the woman an agitated man who Dr Hawken suspected of being responsible for the shooting appeared behind them. He kept the man occupied by requesting timber for splints until the police and ambulance arrived.

For his actions Dr Hawken is commended for brave conduct.

Senior Constable Brett HOOD
New South Wales Water Police

Senior Constable Hood was a crew member on the police launch "LEES" on 25 July 1989 when it was called to assist the stranded bulk liquid tanker "KOURIS" from Wanda Beach. Conditions existing at the time were winds of 50-55 knots and waves rising to over 7.5 metres. Because of worsening sea conditions when the launch reached the "KOURIS" a tow line could not be passed between them. Instead the line was thrown from a tug to the police launch which then manouvered around the tanker in breaking waves and within 40 metres of the beach. After being pulled on board the tanker the line parted and the operation had to be repeated twice more as the line broke a second time. The tug which had now lost power to both engines was washed up onto the beach. The police launch "LEES" unsuccessfully attempted to tow her off and then stood by in case evacuation became necessary. The whole operation which was then called off until the following day took over seven hours.

For his actions Senior Constable Hood is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Paul James HOURIGAN
53 Kendall Avenue
QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620

On 12 September 1989 at about 11.50 p.m. a fire broke out on the first floor of a hotel at Queanbeyan. Mr Hourigan, the bar manager, was alerted by a police officer. Together they went upstairs where they saw smoke coming from under the door of Room One. They entered and, after an unsuccessful search, Mr Hourigan went to the rear of the hotel to raise the alarm among the other guests. He was escorting some of them to safety when he saw a man squatting in a corner. He led him out and returned in an attempt to assist a police officer to continue the rescue at Room One. Blocked by the thickness of the smoke he went to the back stairs and continued to assist others to safety.

For his actions Mr Hourigan is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Oswald George KENNY-LEVICK
78-80 Castle Howard Road
BEECROFT NSW 2119

On 7 May 1990 Mr Kenny-Levick witnessed an attempted armed robbery at the State Bank at Macquarie Shopping Centre, North Ryde. As the armed offender ran from the bank Mr Kenny-Levick intervened by placing his right leg between the legs of the man in an attempt to trip him. However, the offender pushed Mr Kenny-Levick to the concrete floor resulting in a fractured ankle.

For his actions Mr Kenny-Levick is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Robert Raymond LARKIN
1 Elm Place
CRONULLA NSW 2230

Mr Larkin, a senior lifeguard, was awoken on the morning of 25 July 1989 and requested to standby at Wanda Beach where the bulk liquid tanker "KOURIS" had run aground. The tanker was in danger of capsizing in the heavy swell and 50-55 knot winds. Mr Larkin and another senior lifeguard prepared rescue equipment and waited in an inflatable rubber boat. On three occasions they were called on to ferry a tow line between the "KOURIS" and the tug "WOONA" and later to the police launch "LEES". During this time Mr Larkins' boat experienced repeated engine failure due to fouling of the propeller by the tow lines. Later while assisting with more tow lines to the tug "WOONA" which had also run aground further engine failure resulted in the rubber boat capsizing. Mr Larkin and his companion finally managed to swim the boat ashore, replaced the motor and remained on standby.

For his actions Mr Larkin is commended for brave conduct.

Constable First Class Andrew George LAWLOR
New South Wales Police Service

On 17 March 1990 Constable First Class Lawlor was on patrol duty in Tweed Heads when he was requested to assist at a fire in the cells at the Tweed Heads Police Station. An attempt had been made to rescue the only prisoner in the female cells, an intoxicated and aggressive woman, but officers had been driven back by thick acrid smoke. Constable Lawlor and another officer placed wet handkerchiefs over their faces and on the second attempt they crawled on their stomachs to the cell, unlocked the door and dragged the prisoner to safety. Constable Lawlor was treated for smoke inhalation.

For his actions Constable First Class Lawlor is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Wayne McDOWALL
37 Eppalock Street
DUFFY ACT 2611

Mr McDowall was travelling in a car being driven north on the Federal Highway near Brooks Creek on 8 May 1989. He saw a fuel tanker travelling in the opposite direction and moving to the incorrect side of the road as it approached a bend. The driver veered to the left. However, the rear of the tanker bumped his car, causing him to lose control and collide with three guide posts. Meanwhile the tanker had rolled over spilling its load of aviation fuel. After the car stopped Mr McDowall and the driver ran through the spilling fuel and were able to extract the unconscious driver from the cabin of the prime mover and carry him a safe distance away.

For his actions Mr McDowall is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Graham John McMILLAN
46 Bulwarra Street
CARINGBAH NSW 2229

Mr McMillan, a senior lifeguard, was awoken on the morning of 25 July 1989 and requested to standby at Wanda Beach where the bulk liquid tanker "KOURIS" had run aground. The tanker was in danger of capsizing in the heavy swell and 50-55 knot winds. Mr McMillan and another senior lifeguard prepared rescue equipment and waited in an inflatable rubber boat. On three occasions they were called on to ferry a tow line between the "KOURIS" and the tug "WOONA" and later to the police launch "LEES". During this time Mr McMillan's boat experienced repeated engine failure due to fouling of the propeller by the tow lines. Later while assisting with more tow lines to the tug "WOONA" which had also run aground further engine failure resulted in the rubber boat capsizing. Mr McMillan and his companion finally managed to swim the boat ashore, replaced the motor and remained on standby.

For his actions Mr McMillan is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Terry John MATTHEWS
8/2 Rand Court
BUNBURY WA 6230

On the night of 28 February 1990 Mr Matthews was driving home through Bunbury when he stopped at a burning house. A woman ran to the back of the house shouting that her baby was inside. Mr Matthews followed her, opened a window and climbed inside the house which was dark and filled with thick black smoke. Following directions from the mother at the window he felt his way around until he located the baby which he brought to the window and passed to its mother.

For his actions Mr Matthews is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Robin NORRIS
7 Burt Street
MUNDINGBURRA QLD 4812

On 6 May 1990 Mr Norris and two other men were attempting to recover bicycles lost by young boys crossing the fast flowing Ross River at Townsville. Mr Norris heard a call for help and saw that one of his companions had tied a rope around his waist and the other end to a stump in the river. He was being washed downstream and repeatedly pushed under by the force of the water. He swam to where the man was but could neither untie the rope nor support the man's head above the surface. With difficulty Mr Norris swam across the river and ran along the bank to the area opposite the stump. He returned to the river, swam to the stump and wrapping his legs around it was able to pull the rope towards him and release it. The trapped man was then washed down stream to a bend in the river where he became tangled in branches at the edge of the water and was able to be rescued.

For his actions Mr Norris is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Darren Rodney PARKER
6/3345 Gold Coast Highway
SURFERS PARADISE QLD 4217

On 3 October 1989 Mr Parker was leaving a doctor's surgery in Southport when he heard a shot. He saw a female social worker who was visiting a psychiatric patient lying in a driveway opposite. He ran back to get the doctor and accompanied him to the woman. Mr Parker assisted the doctor while an agitated man he suspected of being responsible for the shooting remained in the vicinity.

For his actions Mr Parker is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Paschal Laurance QUEENAN
22 Arafura Avenue
LOGANHOLME QLD 4129

On 25 September 1989 Mr Queenan, an excavation driver, was directed to build an earth wall at the rear of a burning plastic recycling factory. A State of Emergency had been declared and residents within a radius of one kilometre were being evacuated. Because of the toxic smoke Mr Queenan was supplied with breathing apparatus. After completing the wall, on request, he removed sheets of galvanised iron wall panels and roofing which had collapsed over the seat of the fire preventing water reaching it. Water was continually sprayed over his machine which on a number of occasions was totally engulfed in flames. Mr Queenan continued to voluntarily operate his excavator in this way for a period of three to four hours.

For his actions Mr Queenan is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Grant William THOMPSON
New South Wales Water Police

Senior Constable Grant William Thompson was a crew member on the police launch "LEES" on 25 July 1989 when it was called to assist the stranded bulk liquid tanker "KOURIS" from Wanda Beach. Conditions existing at the time were winds of 50-55 knots and waves rising to over 7.5 metres. Because of worsening sea conditions when the launch reached the "KOURIS" a tow line could not be passed between them. Instead the line was thrown from a tug to the police launch which then manouvered around the tanker in breaking waves and within 40 metres of the beach. After being pulled on board the tanker the line parted and the operation had to be repeated twice more as the line broke a second time. The tug which had now lost power to both engines was washed up onto the beach. The police launch "LEES" unsuccessfully attempted to tow her off and then stood by in case evacuation became necessary. The whole operation which was then called off until the following day took over seven hours.

For his actions Senior Constable Grant William Thompson is commended for brave conduct.

Senior Constable Godfrey Raymond WELLER
Queensland Police Force

On 30 January 1990 Senior Constable Weller heard while on mobile traffic patrol that a man was walking along Doreen Street with a rifle. He followed him to the Psychiatric Wing of the Mount Isa Hospital, where he saw the offender with a rifle barrel in his mouth. He called out "don't do it" but the offender levelled his rifle at him also and then replaced it in his own mouth. The offender continued in this manner until Constable Weller standing two metres from him took a step forward. As the offender swung the rifle and fired Constable Weller moved to the right. Recovering, he assisted in a struggle during which the rifle was wrested from the offender and he was subdued.

For his actions Senior Constable Weller is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Jeffrey Raymond WHEELER
New South Wales Police Service

On 17 March 1990 Senior Constable Wheeler was on patrol duty in Tweed Heads when he was requested to assist at a fire in the cells at the Tweed Heads Police Station. An attempt had been made to rescue the only prisoner in the female cells, an intoxicated and aggressive woman, but officers had been driven back by thick acrid smoke. Constable Wheeler and another officer placed wet handkerchiefs over their faces and on the second attempt they crawled on their stomachs to the cell, unlocked the door and dragged the prisoner to safety. Constable Wheeler was treated for smoke inhalation.

For his actions Senior Constable Wheeler is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Timothy John WORRALL
34 Duffy Street
AINSLIE ACT 2602

On 10 March 1990 Timothy Worrall was in the surf at unpatrolled Broulee Beach with a group of teenagers when they were caught in a rip. Timothy was making for the beach when a girl who was the furthest out called for help. He returned to her and attempted to calm her as he supported her through several large waves. They were both swept out beyond the headland before Timothy could take the girl in a life saving grip with his arm around her neck and swim side-stroke to a sand bar. After resting they both swam to the beach.

For his actions Timothy Worrall is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Glen RICHARDSON
New South Wales Police Service

On 7 February 1990 Constable Richardson was called to the flooded Erina Creek at Matcham. Two men had climbed from their four-wheel-drive vehicle which had been overturned by a flood surge and were clinging to tree branches in mid-stream. As the creek was approximately 100 metres wide and flowing very swiftly it was not possible for the exhausted men to reach the bank. Constable Richardson tied a secured rope around his waist and commenced to swim towards the men. After being swept downstream in the current he made his way back to the men, secured his end of the rope and assisted one man to the bank. He then returned with another police officer to the second man who had his foot caught below the chest-high water. They freed him and assisted him back along the rope to the bank.

For his actions Constable Richardson is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Brian SPICER
3 Acacia Place
GATESHEAD WEST NSW 2290

On 27 November 1989 Mr Spicer was driving his car in Gateshead West when he noticed smoke coming from a detached laundry at the rear of a house. He ran to the building and was told that a two-year-old child was inside. Mr Spicer attempted to enter the laundry but was driven back by the heat and thick black smoke. He then entered the burning building using a hessian bag to cover himself and located the child at the back of the laundry. Despite his own clothing and hair being on fire Mr Spicer covered the child with the bag, dragged him outside and rolled him on the ground to extinguish the flames. The child died later in hospital.

For his actions Mr Spicer is commended for brave conduct.